

## NASA's Affirmative Procurement Program (Buying Recycled)

**PURPOSE:** NASA's Affirmative Procurement goal is to increase purchases of products containing recovered materials and environmentally preferable products and services.

**BACKGROUND** The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and Executive Order 13101, "Greening the Government Through Waste Prevention, Recycling, and Federal Acquisition", Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR 23.4), and NASA's Procedures and Requirements (NPR) 8530.1 requires NASA to purchase guideline items containing post consumer recycled materials.

**DESCRIPTION:** The U.S. EPA has published a variety of guideline items in eight product categories under the Affirmative Procurement Program (see next page). Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) is buying "products or services that have a lesser or reduced effect on human health and the environment, when compared with competing products or services that serve the same purpose." Bio-based products produce or use plant and tree-based products instead of petrochemical products.






**GUIDELINES FOR ALL PURCHASERS:** Individuals purchasing any listed guideline item must purchase materials with recycled content unless one of the stated exemptions applies:

- \* A product does not meet appropriate performance standards.
- \* Not available within a reasonable amount of time.
- \* Product is not available competitively from two or more sources.
- \* The product is only available at an unreasonable price.

All waivers must be in writing and signed by the NASA Environmental Manager at your center (reference NPR 8530.1, section 3.2.3).

**COST ANALYSIS:** More than just purchase price must be considered when determining the cost of an Affirmative Procurement item. The life-cycle cost should be used, which considers other factors such as maintenance cost and the total life of the product. To calculate the life cycle costing assessment for a product that deviates from the Affirmative Procurement Program, NASA recommends that each center evaluate the following cost criteria:

- |                                      |                              |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| + Associated training and management | + Replacement                |
| + Handling and transportation        | + Treatment or disposal      |
| + Potential liabilities              | + Using the products         |
| + Record keeping                     | + Waste minimization efforts |

<b>The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provides a listing of Comprehensive Procurement Guideline (CPG) Items in eight product categories under the Affirmative Procurement Program. The Federal Government must buy the following item made with recovered material.</b> <a href="http://www.epa.gov/cpg/products">http://www.epa.gov/cpg/products</a>		
<b>Construction Products</b> Building insulation Carpet Cushion Cement/concrete containing fly ash Floor tiles/patio blocks Laminated paperboard Cement containing Grounds Granulated Blast Furnace (GGBF) slag		Latex paint Polyester fiber carpet Railroad grade crossing surfaces Shower/restroom dividers Structural fiberboard
<b>Landscaping Products</b> Compost Garden and soaker hoses Plastic lumber landscaping, timbers, posts		Hydraulic mulch Lawn and garden edging
<b>Miscellaneous Products</b> Awards and plaques Industrial drums Manual-grade strapping		Mats Signs (support and posts) Sorbents
<b>Non-paper Office Products</b> Binders Office recycling containers Office waste receptacles Plastic clipboards Plastic desktop accessories Plastic envelopes		Plastic file boards Plastic portfolios Plastic presentation folders Printer ribbons Toner cartridges Trash bags
<b>Paper Products</b> Envelopes File folders Newsprint		Paperboard and packaging Printing and writing papers Tissue and towel
<b>Park and Recreation Products</b> Park benches Picnic tables Playground equipment and surfaces		Plastic fencing Running tracks
<b>Transportation Products</b> Channelizers Cones Delineators		Parking stops Traffic barricades
<b>Vehicular Products</b> Reclaimed engine coolants Re-refined lubricating oils (engine oils, hydraulic fluids, gear oils)		Retread tires

## **RESOURCES:**

NASA's Recycling and Affirmative Procurement Program website, including procurement resources is located at:

<http://nasarecycles.nasa.gov/index.htm>

The NASA Principal Center for Recycling and Affirmative Procurement is located at the John F. Kennedy Space Center, FL. Our task is to provide leadership and expertise in Recycling and Affirmative Procurement throughout NASA by incorporating the pollution prevention hierarchy of source reduction and recycling/reuse. This program will be carried out through compliance with Executive Order 13101.

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## **WHAT IS AFFIRMATIVE PROCUREMENT?**

Affirmative Procurement (AP) is the purchase of environmentally preferable products manufactured from recycled and reclaimed materials.



### **Agency Goal**

NASA will excel within the Federal Government in waste prevention, recycling, and affirmative procurement by achieving a waste diversion goal of 35% by 2010 and maintaining 100% compliance in affirmative procurement.

<http://nasarecycles.nasa.gov/index.htm>